

## The Form and Manner of Ordering Presbyters

¶ When the day appointed by the Bishop is come, there shall be a Sermon or Exhortation, declaring the duty and Office of such as come to be admitted Presbyters; how necessary that Order is in the Church of Christ, and also, how the people ought to esteem them in their Office.

¶ A Presbyter shall present unto the Bishop, sitting in his chair near to the holy Table, all those who are to receive the Order of Presbyter that day, each of them being properly vested, and shall say,

**R**EVEREND Father in God, I present unto you *these persons* present, to be admitted to the Order of Presbyter.

¶ The Bishop.

**T**AKE heed that the *persons*, whom ye present unto us, be apt and meet, for *their* learning and godly conversation, to exercise *their* Ministry duly, to the honour of God and the edifying of his Church.

¶ The Presbyter shall answer,

**I**HAVE inquired concerning *them*, and also examined *them*, and think *them* so to be.

¶ Then the Bishop shall say unto the people,

**G**OOD people, *these are they* whom we purpose, God willing, to receive this day unto the holy Office of Presbyter; for, after due examination, we find not to the contrary, but that *they are* lawfully called to *their* function and Ministry, and that *they are persons* meet for the same. But yet, if there be any of you who knoweth any impediment, or notable

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crime, in *any of them*, for the which he ought not to be received into this holy Ministry, let him come forth in the Name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

- ¶ And if any great crime or impediment be objected, the Bishop shall cease from Ordering that person, until such time as the party accused shall be found clear of that crime.
- ¶ Then the Bishop (commending such as shall be found meet to be ordained, to the prayers of the congregation) shall, with the Clergy and people present, say the Litany.
- ¶ And note, That after the Suffrage, *That it may please thee to illuminate all Bishops*, etc., shall be said the following Suffrage.

**T**HAT it may please thee to bless *these thy servants*, now to be admitted to the Order of Presbyters, and to pour thy grace upon *them*; that *they* may duly exercise *their* Office, to the edifying of thy Church, and to the glory of thy holy Name.

- ¶ And note further, That in the discretion of the Bishop, instead of the Litany appointed, may be said the Litany for Ordinations.
- ¶ Then shall be said the Service for the Communion, with the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, as follows.

### The Collect

**A**LMIGHTY God, Giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed diverse Orders of Ministers in thy Church; Mercifully behold *these thy servants* now called to the Office of Presbyter; and so replenish *them* with the truth of thy Doctrine, and adorn *them* with innocency of life, that, both by word and good example, *they* may faithfully serve thee in this Office, to the glory of thy Name, and the edification of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

### The Epistle. Ephesians 4:7-13

**U**NTO every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith,

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When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **The Gospel.** St. Matthew 9:36-38

**W**HEN Jesus saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

¶ Or this.

### **The Gospel.** St. John 10:1-16

**V**ERILY, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but

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the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and know my sheep, and am known of mine, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one flock, and one shepherd.

¶ Then, the people being seated, the Bishop shall say unto those who are to be ordained Presbyters as follows.

**Y**E have heard, *Brethren*, as well in your private examination, as in the exhortation which was now made to you, and in the holy Lessons taken out of the Gospel, and the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity, and of how great importance this Office is, whereunto *ye* are called. And now again we exhort you, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that *ye* have in remembrance, into how high a dignity, and to how weighty an Office and charge *ye* are called: that is to say, to be *messengers*, *watchmen*, and *stewards* of the Lord; to teach, and to premonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this sinful world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Have always therefore printed in your remembrance, how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ, which he bought with his death, and

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for whom he shed his blood. The Church and congregation whom you must serve, is his Spouse, and his Body. And if it shall happen that the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, *ye* know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider with *yourselves* the end of the Ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ; and see that *ye* never cease your labour, your care and diligence, until *ye* have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge, unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life.

Forasmuch then as your Office is both of so great excellency, and of so great difficulty, *ye* see with how great care and study *ye* ought to apply *yourselves*, as well to show *yourselves* dutiful and thankful unto that Lord, who hath placed you in so high a dignity; as also to beware that neither you *yourselves* offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit, *ye* cannot have a mind and will thereto of *yourselves*; for that will and ability is given of God alone: therefore *ye* ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit. And seeing that *ye* cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same; consider how studious *ye* ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners both of *yourselves*, and of those who specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures; and for this self-same cause, how *ye* ought to forsake and set aside, as much as *ye* may, all worldly cares and studies.

We have good hope that *ye* have well weighed these things with *yourselves*, long before this time; and that *ye* have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give *yourselves* wholly to this

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Office, whereunto it hath pleased God to call you: so that, as much as lieth in you, *ye* will apply *yourselves* wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way; and that *ye* will continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Saviour Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that, by daily reading and weighing the Scriptures, *ye* may wax riper and stronger in your Ministry; and that *ye* may so endeavour *yourselves*, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the Rule and Doctrine of Christ, that *ye* may be [*a*] wholesome and godly *examples* and *patterns* for the people to follow.

And now, that this present congregation of Christ may also understand your *minds* and *wills* in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your *duties*; *ye* shall answer plainly to these things, which we, in the Name of God, and of his Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

**D**O you think in your heart, that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the Canons of this Church, to the Order and Ministry of Presbyter?

*Answer.* I think it.

*Bishop.* Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all Doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined, out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge; and to teach nothing, as necessary to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scripture?

*Answer.* I am so persuaded, and have so determined, by God's grace.

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*Bishop.* Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the Doctrine and Sacraments, and the Discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded, and as this Church hath received the same, according to the Commandments of God; so that you may teach the people committed to your cure and charge with all diligence to keep and observe the same?

*Answer.* I will so do, by the help of the Lord.

*Bishop.* Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away from the Church all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word; and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to the sick as to the whole, within your *cures*, as need shall require, and occasion shall be given?

*Answer.* I will, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop.* Will you be diligent in Prayers, and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

*Answer.* I will endeavour so to do, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop.* Will you be diligent to frame and fashion your own *selves*, and your *families*, according to the Doctrine of Christ; and to make both *yourselves* and them, as much is in you lieth, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

*Answer.* I will apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop.* Will you maintain and set forwards, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love, among all Christian people, and especially among those who are or shall be committed to your charge?

*Answer.* I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

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*Bishop.* Will you reverently obey your Bishop, and other chief Ministers, who may have the charge and government over you; following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, and submitting *yourselves* to their godly judgements?

*Answer.* I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

¶ Then, all standing, shall the Bishop say,

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hath given you this will to do all these things; Grant also unto you strength and power to perform the same, that he may accomplish his work which he hath begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ After this, the congregation, still standing, shall be desired, secretly in their prayers, to make their humble supplications to God for all these things; for the which prayers there shall be silence kept for a space.

¶ After which, the persons to be ordained Presbyters kneeling, and all others standing, the Bishop shall sing or say the *Veni, Creator Spiritus*; the Bishop beginning, and the Presbyters, and others who are present, answering by verses, as follows.

### *Veni, Creator Spiritus*

**C**OME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
*And lighten with celestial fire.*

Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
*Who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.*

Thy blessed unction from above,  
*Is comfort, life, and fire of love.*

Enable with perpetual light  
*The dullness of our blinded sight.*

Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
*With the abundance of thy grace.*

Keep far our foes, give peace at home;  
*Where thou art guide, no ill can come.*

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Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
*And thee, of both, to be but One;*  
That, through the ages all along,  
*This may be our endless song:*  
Praise to thy eternal merit,  
*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

¶ That done, the Bishop shall pray in this wise, and say,

Let us pray.

**A**Lmighty God, and heavenly Father, who, of thine infinite love and goodness towards us, hast given to us thine only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer, and the Author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Doctors, and Pastors; by whose labour and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all the parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of thy holy Name: For these so great benefits of thine eternal goodness, and for that thou hast vouchsafed to call *these thy servants* here present to the same Office and Ministry, appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render unto thee most hearty thanks, we praise and worship thee; and we humbly beseech thee, by the same thy blessed Son, to grant unto all, which either here or elsewhere call upon thy holy Name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto thee for these and all thine other benefits; and that we may daily increase and go forwards in the knowledge and faith of thee and thy Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by *these thy Ministers*, as by them over whom *they* shall be appointed thy *Ministers*, thy holy Name may be for ever glorified, and thy blessed kingdom enlarged; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

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¶ When this Prayer is done, the Bishop with the Presbyters present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that is to receive the Order of Presbyter; the Receivers humbly kneeling, and the Bishop saying,

**R**ECEIVE the Holy Ghost for the Office and Work of a Presbyter in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the Imposition of our hands. Whose sins thou dost forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins thou dost retain, they are retained. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ Or this.

**T**AKE thou Authority to execute the Office of a Presbyter in the Church of God, now committed to thee by the Imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ Then the Bishop shall deliver to every one of them kneeling, the Bible into his hand, saying,

**T**AKE thou Authority to preach the Word of God, and to minister the holy Sacraments in the congregation, where thou shalt be lawfully appointed thereunto.

¶ When this is done, the Nicene Creed shall be said, and the Bishop shall go on in the Service of the Communion, which all they who receive Orders shall take together, and remain in the same place where hands were laid upon them, until such time as they have received the Communion.

¶ The Communion being done, after the last Collect, and immediately before the Benediction, shall be said this Collect.

**M**OST merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon *these thy servants* thy heavenly blessing; that *they* may be clothed with righteousness, and that thy Word spoken by *their* mouths may have such success, that it may never

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be spoken in vain. Grant also, that we may have grace to hear and receive what *they* shall deliver out of thy most holy Word, or agreeable to the same, as the means of our salvation; that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory, and the increase of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**T**HE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

¶ And if, on the same day, the Order of Deacons be given to some, and the Order of Presbyters to others; the Deacons shall be first presented, and then the Presbyters; and it shall suffice that the Litany be once said for both. The Epistle shall be Ephesians 4:7-13, as before in this Office. Immediately after which, those who are to be made Deacons, shall be examined and ordained, as is above prescribed. Then one of them having read the Gospel, (which shall be either Saint Matthew 9:36-38, as before in this Office; or else Saint Luke 12:35-38, as before in the Form for the Ordering of Deacons,) those who are to be made Presbyters shall likewise be examined and ordained, as is in this Office before appointed. The Collect shall be as follows.

### The Collect

**A**LMIGHTY God, Giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed diverse Orders of Ministers in thy Church; Mercifully behold *these thy servants* now called to the Office of Deacon and *these thy servants* now called to the Office of Presbyter; and so replenish them with the truth of thy Doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that, both by word and good example, they may faithfully serve thee in their Ministry, to the glory of thy Name, and the edification of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*